Painting 繪戰師

繪戰師 2

編繪 孫威軍

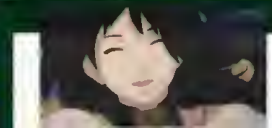
NT-95

每次在自己作品出版前，總會把一些重左改右改，這個除重得不夠徹底、那個模圍粗壯、這兒不夠氣氛……往往花上幾天時間去修改，最過意不去的是害苦了編輯，要他重新排版。

以我所知最先把繪戰師同人化的是兩位部落格紅人，亦是我的好友／咳神與馬田。和他們相識已十多年了，當時大家在同一間廣告公司工作，每天相處的時間，要比與父母及女友還要多，雖然工作很辛苦，但與他們共事是一件快樂事，吃神畫技之超卓已是無容置疑，而馬田的畫中有詩亦令人讀嘆不已，大家不妨到他們的部落格去慢慢細味。

不畏矢石亂 無懼生死界

為尋回失落的聖物，十字軍的特殊部隊追征西夏走險，追擊骨死國寶的西夏大軍。「不死的繪戰師」阿繪離奇地置身於十字軍陣營，驚見了這場戰爭的另一面，究竟誰是真正的敵人？聖物與阿繪之間到底有何關係？從聖地歸來的強者掌握了一切關鍵？且看東西繪戰師穿梭戰陣，繪出幅幅真相！



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2
2
孫威軍
東立
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Painting 繪戰師

Volume 2

Painting 繪戰師

THE STORY SO FAR

IN THE FINAL YEARS OF THE NORTHERN SONG DYNASTY, WAR BROKE OUT AT THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE TANGUT EMPIRE OVER A "HOLY ITEM." THE TWO PARTIES AT WAR WERE THE TANGUT ARMY AND AN ARMY OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN FROM THE WEST. DURING THIS CONFLICT, WAR PAINTERS TAO HUI AND BING TING MET, BY CHANCE, IN THE BATTLEFIELD, AND THEIR FATES BEGAN TO INTERTWINE.

WITH UNMATCHED AGILITY AND PAINTING SKILLS, TAO HUI PAINTED IN THE CENTRE OF BATTLES AND HAD BEEN NAMED THE "UNTOUCHABLE WAR PAINTER". FEW PEOPLE KNEW OF HIS PAST, AND HIS BACKGROUND REMAINED MYSTERIOUS. HE WAS TOLD AT A YOUNG AGE THAT IT'S FORBIDDEN FOR HIM TO PAINT WITH HIS LEFT HAND, AS IF DISASTER WOULD FOLLOW IF HE DID SO. AS A RESULT, HE ONLY PAINTED WITH HIS RIGHT HAND.

AS THE TWO ARMIES REACHED A STAND-STILL IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF SHA, AN ATROCIOUS DEMON CONTROLLED BY FOREIGN WIZARDS WAS SCOUTING AT THE GATES FOR THE LOCATION OF THE HOLY ITEM. CAPTAIN KEI LIE OF TANGUT SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TRYING TO STOP THE DEMON TO NO AVAIL. TAO HUI WAS THEN FORCED TO FIGHT THE DEMON, AND IN THE PROCESS REMEMBERED HIS AGONIZING PAST. WHEN HE BEGAN TO PAINT WITH HIS LEFT HAND, A SUCCESSION OF STRANGE EVENTS FOLLOWED...

啊
啊
啊
啊
哇

PAINTING 9 THE HOLY ITEM

Painting 繪戰紀

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WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THOSE GOONS IN WHITE WOULD BE DEFEATED BY A LITTLE BRAT?
AND A HERETIC, NO LESS.

YOUR HANDS ARE HURT BADLY!
Bing Ting ...
THE ELDERS
Call an army doctor!
THE SKIN IS HEAVILY BURNED. IT'LL GET INFECTED IF IT'S NOT TREATED RIGHT AWAY.

JUST NOW, IT WAS TRULY ...
THEY ALL DIED.
Boy, I didn't want to resort to an all-out war to get the sacred item,
but my plans are disrupted thanks to you.
嘿
If you want to blame someone, blame yourself!

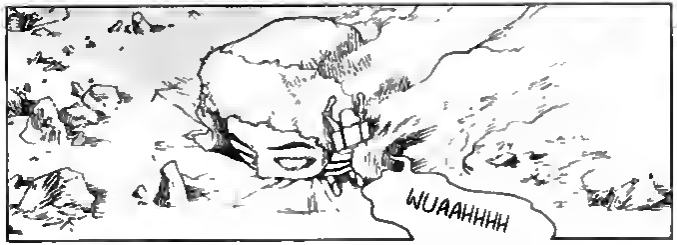
I'm sending you off to the next world!!

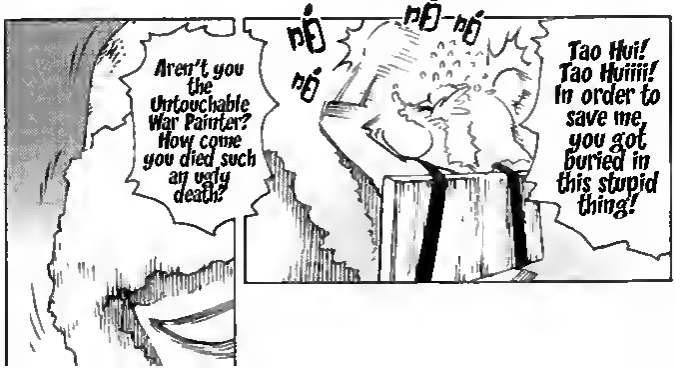
滴
滴
滴
!

drip

啪
Watch out, Bing Ting!
降
降
降

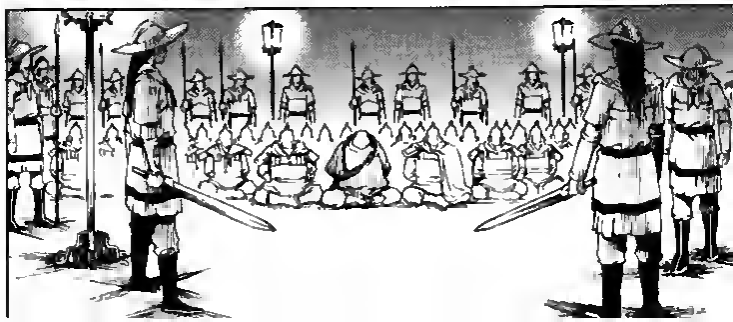
隆隆
隆
隆隆
隆


WUAAHHHH

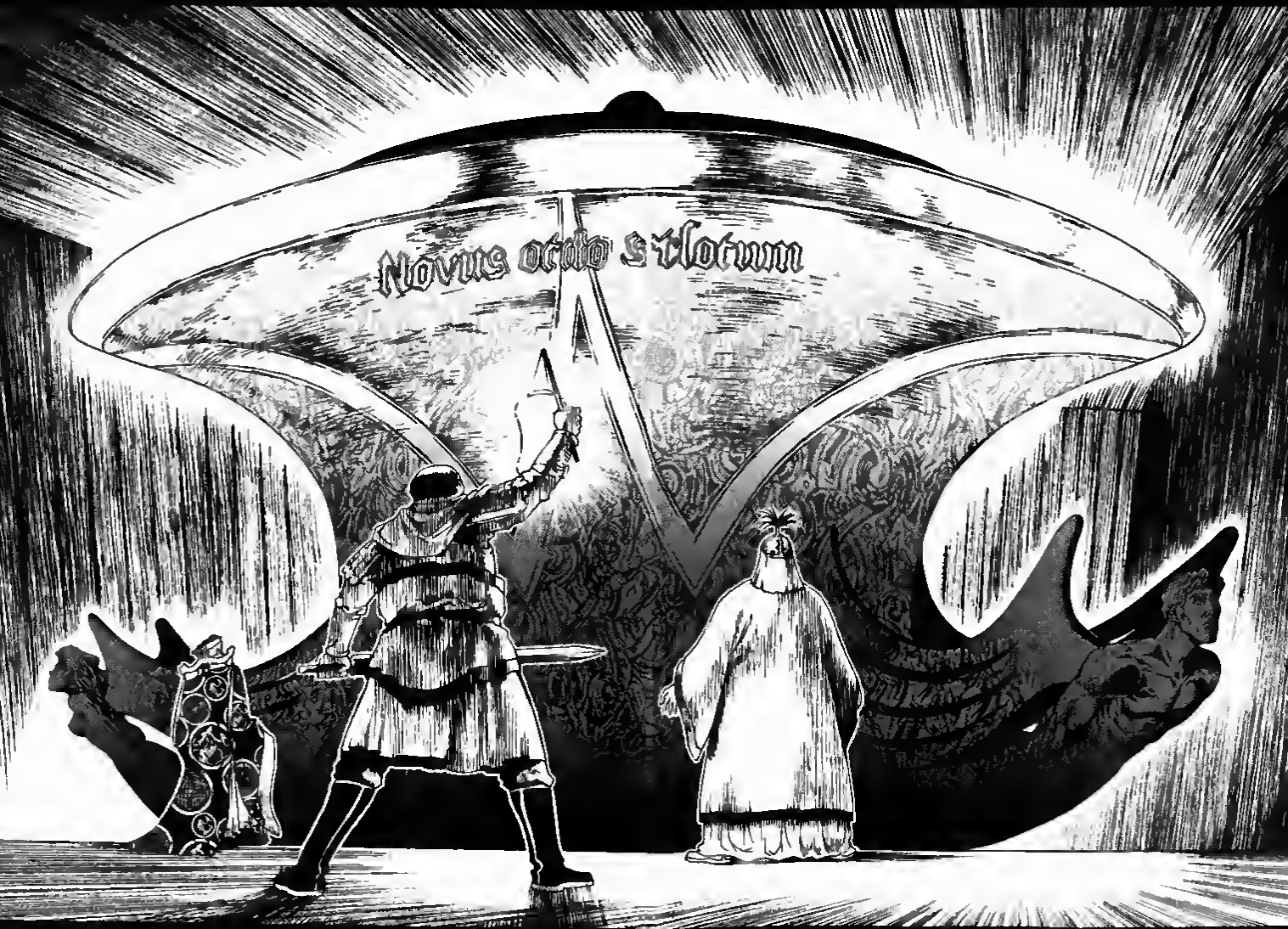

Aren't you the Untouchable War Painter? How come you died such an ugly death?
nó
nó-nó
Tao Hui! Tao Huiiii! In order to save me, you got buried in this stupid thing!

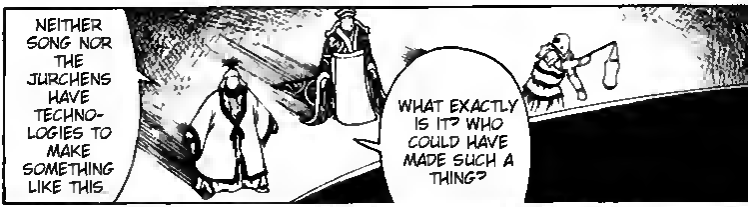
TAO HUI~~ WAS THAT YOUR SPIRIT? REST IN PEACE, I'LL BURY YOU WITH LOADS OF LUXURIES!
I'LL GET THE MONEY BY SELLING YOUR PAINTINGS YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
Ehh ~~?
Where's Tao Hui?
DON'T TELL ME IN HIS LAST MOMENT
YES! I'll keep all his money!
!

THIS IS... A TUNNEL ...

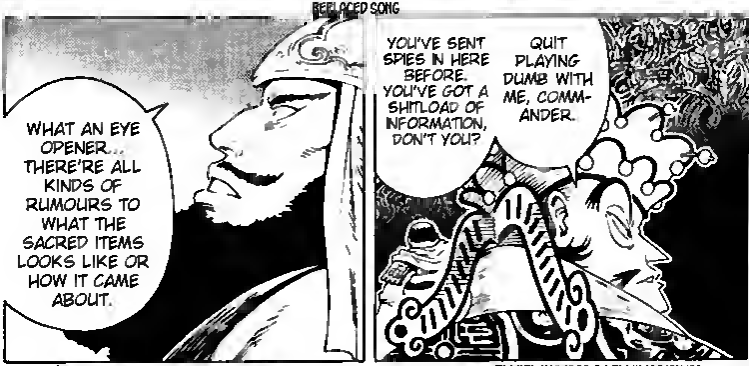


THIS HERE IS THE SACRED ITEM


Novus ordo seclorum


NEITHER SONG NOR THE JURCHENS HAVE TECHNOLOGIES TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS
WHAT EXACTLY IS IT? WHO COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A THING?

× THE JURCHENS ESTABLISHED THE JIN DYNASTY IN THE FINAL YEARS OF THE NORTHERN SONG, IT THEN PUSHED INTO CHINA AND REPLACED SONG


WHAT AN EYE OPENER... THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF RUMOURS OF WHAT THE SACRED ITEMS LOOKS LIKE OR HOW IT CAME ABOUT.
YOU'VE SENT SPIES IN HERE BEFORE. YOU'VE GOT A SHITLOAD OF INFORMATION, DON'T YOU?
QUIT PLAYING DUMB WITH ME, COMMANDER.

T/N: THE RAW SAYS THE JURCHENS ESTABLISHED THE QING DYNASTY...THAT'S WRONG, QING IS ESTABLISHED BY THE MANCHUS

※ THE 4TH EMPEROR OF THE WESTERN XIA, "CHONGZONG LI QIANSHUN."

ANOTHER SAYING GOES THAT, DURING THE GREAT FLOOD OF ANCIENT CHINA, THE DRAGON'S GATE MOUNTAIN SAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YELLOW RIVER...
Baw haw haw, don't tell me you believe that folk's tale!
SOME SAY IT'S A GIFT TO OUR LORD, THE FOURTH KING OF TANGUT, SENT FROM THE HEAVENS.

AND BLOCKED THE WATERWAY YU THE GREAT FORGED THIS SACRED ITEM HIMSELF TO BREAK THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN AND DREDGE A NEW CHANNEL FOR THE RIVER.
ARE YOU SHITTING ME, COMMANDER? THE CHARACTERS ON THE SACRED ITEM LOOK NOTHING LIKE BRONZE INSCRIPTIONS OF CHINA!
OF COURSE I KNOW THEY'RE FAR-FETCHED.
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME WHAT IT ACTUALLY IS, O GREAT SECRETARY OF WAR?
Comm-ander, look!

There's a pair of handles here ...
AHA, JUST AS THE RECORDS SAY...
HOLD ON! THIS SCRIPT SAYS: "HE WHO TOUCHES THE SACRED ITEM WILL BE SUCKED DRY IN BODY AND IN SPIRIT"! I HAVE THE SACRED ITEM RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME NOW; I HAVE NO MORE USE FOR THIS TURD, WHY DON'T I GET HIM TO TAKE THE RISK...
THAT SCRIPT, ISN'T IT...

OBEY THE COMM-ANDER!
What?
Oi, you! Open this up!

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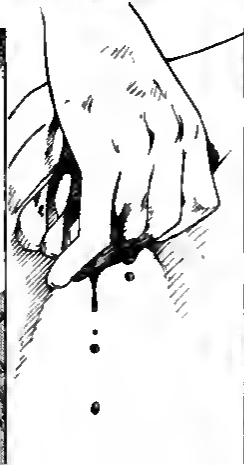
PAINTING 10. HE MUST DIE.

吐き



THIS... THIS IS...
WASN'T I AT THE GATE OF SHA? WHY AM I SUDDENLY IN THE MIDDLE OF ENEMY GROUNDS...?

AAAAAY
aaaAAAA

Stay with me, Bing Ting! I'll find you a doctor right now!
Marquise, are you alright?
Are you injured?
I'M FINE, ESY.
THAT BOY...
I SEE.

RIGHT HERE... LOOKS LIKE A BATTLE WAS FOUGHT RIGHT HERE.
THESE BODIES...ALL OF THEM DIED WITH A SINGLE BLOW, RIGHT TO THE VITALS.

potuit finem
ire fuimus
!

No fucking way!? This many soldiers... just for me!?
PLEASE. IF IT WAS FOR YOU, 10 OF THEM WOULD BE TOO MANY...
BUT IF IT WERE FOR ME, THIS IS ABOUT RIGHT...

HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
아아
아아
아아
아아

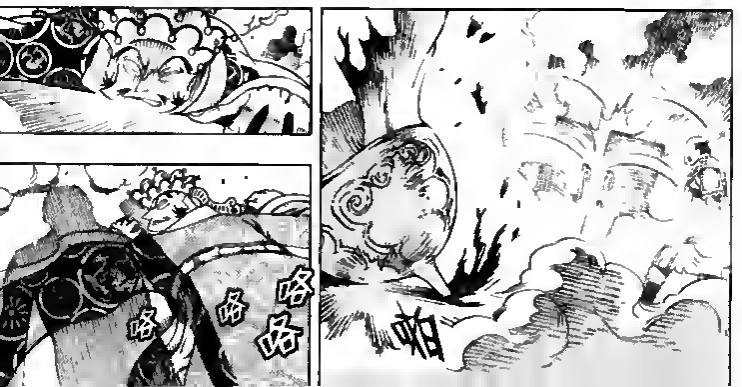
WHY... WHY WASN'T HE SUCKED AWAY BY IT? TH-THE SCRIPT SPECIFICALLY SAID IT... DID I MISS SOMETHING?
靜
咔
嗤
嗤
嗤

WHAT'S
IT'S BRIGHT

啪
哗
呼

咬

What happened?
What's this?
What


咯
咯
咯
啪

MASTER! ARE YOU UN-INJURED?
WHERE'S THE SCRIPT?
REST ASSURED, MY MASTER. THE SCRIPT IS UNDAM-AGED.

YOU CUT HIS HAND IN THAT SPLIT SECOND TO PREVENT DAMAGE ON THE SCRIPT, HUH?
NO WONDER THEY CALL YOU THE BEST EXECUTIONER IN TANGLIT.
WELL, YOU KNEW OF THE SACRED ITEM FROM YOUR PRECIOUS SCRIPT, BUT YOU'LL NEVER KNOW THE POWER IT ENTAILS.
MR COMMANDER, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING... I STAGED THIS WHOLE ACT TO GET MY HANDS ON THIS SCROLL
POWER-HUNGRY YET IGNORANT FOOLS DESERVE TO DIE.
IS THAT WHY YOU FEEL JUSTIFIED TO KILL MY RIGHT HAND MAN?
GOOD WORK, HONG TAI! MY INVESTMENT IN YOU DIDN'T GO TO WASTE. YOU'VE BEEN WITH ME SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG, AFTER ALL.
Thank you, master! I'm glad to be of service.

RIGHT NOW, THE ARMY IN SHA...
I'm very sorry!
No! I don't dare!
ALL UNITS ARE UNDER MY COMMAND THERE ARE PLENTY OF PROVISIONS, AS WELL
I'VE BEEN IN SHA FOR YEARS I KNOW HOW TO WEAKEN PEOPLE WITH MONEY
Excellent! The sacred item, the script, and all military units in Sha are now in my hands. My objectives of this trip have been met!
We shall move out right away!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THE CAPTAINS OF ALL UNITS ARE LOYAL TO ME.
EXCEPT FOR...
I KNOW YOU'RE GOOD, BROTHER. WHY DON'T WE SHOW THESE FOOLS WHAT WE'RE MADE OF?
WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW? NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET YOU AGAIN HERE.
IT'S HIM..?
AH, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF.

I'M TAO HUI. I'M A WAR PAINTER. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT.
I'M NOT A SOLDIER LIKE YOU. WE DON'T STAND TO SLAY THE ENEMIES TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY - WE ONLY HAVE ENOUGH SKILLS TO STAY ALIVE.
AHH, IS THAT SO. THEN...
PLEASE, PAINT THE SCENE OF MY DEATH...

I'M CAPTAIN KEI LIE, SERVING THE GREAT TANGUT ARMY.
AND YOU, BROTHER?

Right now would be a good time to run for you life!
You're gonna fight all those guys like this?
SO HEAVY!

劲力
呜
呀
呀
呀
乎

Is he alive?
Marquise, this guy killed hundreds of our brothers!
MARQUISE ANTIOCH THE BOY IS TIED UP AS YOU'VE INSTRUCTED

No. We must keep him alive!
Please let me send him to his judgement!
BUT...
Keep watch on both of them for now!
THE BOY MUST DIE!
No!

He must die, here and now!
USING A HAND OF THE DEVIL HE HINDERED OUR PLAN TO GET THE HOLY ITEM. IF WE KEEP HIM ALIVE HE WILL DEFINITELY COME FOR US LATER

THE ONE WHO MUST DIE, HERE AND NOW... IS YOU!!

PAINTING WARRIORS CHAPTER 10
BROUGH TO YOU BY:

IMANGASCANS

We at Imangascans hope
that you enjoyed this chapter
and hope that you look
forward to more from us.

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Painting Warriors Chapter 10

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QCER: VAANE

yeh, I know the humour in this credit page thing is lacking don't blame me I'm tired T_T Apologies to Sanji for delaying this for so long, especially after I promised him I'd do it quickly but real life complications meh you know what I mean. Anyways hope you guys enjoy the chapter!

Rore Man'gah
<The Unclean>
JOIN IMANGASCANS IN THIS TERRIBLE BATTLE AGAINST A SEEMINGLY INVINCIBLE ENEMY! CURRENTLY RECRUITING TRANSLATORS!
TOGETHER WE CAN WIN THIS WAR!
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by Vaune

Painting 繪戰記下

PAINTING 11 FROM THE WEST

HRAAAAA
CHIEF OF FIELD OPERATIONS HERLE!

Mar-
quise
YOU DEMON-INFESTED LITTLE SHIT OF A PRIEST
YOU DARE DELUDE THE HOLY ARMY AND MARQUISE ANTIOCH WITH YOUR SO-CALLED HOLY SPIRIT? WERE YOU AFTER THE SACRED ITEM YOURSELF?
砰
啪
M
Mar-
quise

YOU DISOBEYED MY DIRECT ORDERS ON THE SCOUTING MISSION. ON TOP OF THAT, YOU BROUGHT BACK TWO HERETICS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
WE DO NOT TOLERATE INSUBORDINATIONS OF THIS KIND.
MARQUISE...
REST IN PEACE

I, HERLE, HEREBY PRONOUNCE JUDGMENT ON YOU IN PLACE OF THE HOLY CHURCH OF CHRIST.
BURN IN THE POTS OF HELL, HERETIC!

AN ENEMY UNIT OF 45 000 MEN HAS LEFT THE FORT AND IS MARCHING EAST!
AND ANOTHER CALVARY UNIT IS HEADING TOWARDS US FROM THE WEST.
REPORT!
YES, MA'AM!
FOLLOW THEM REPORT BACK AS NECES-SARY!
ARE THEY PLANNING TO TRANSPORT THE SACRED ITEM TO THE CAPITAL OF TANGUT?
LISTEN UP!

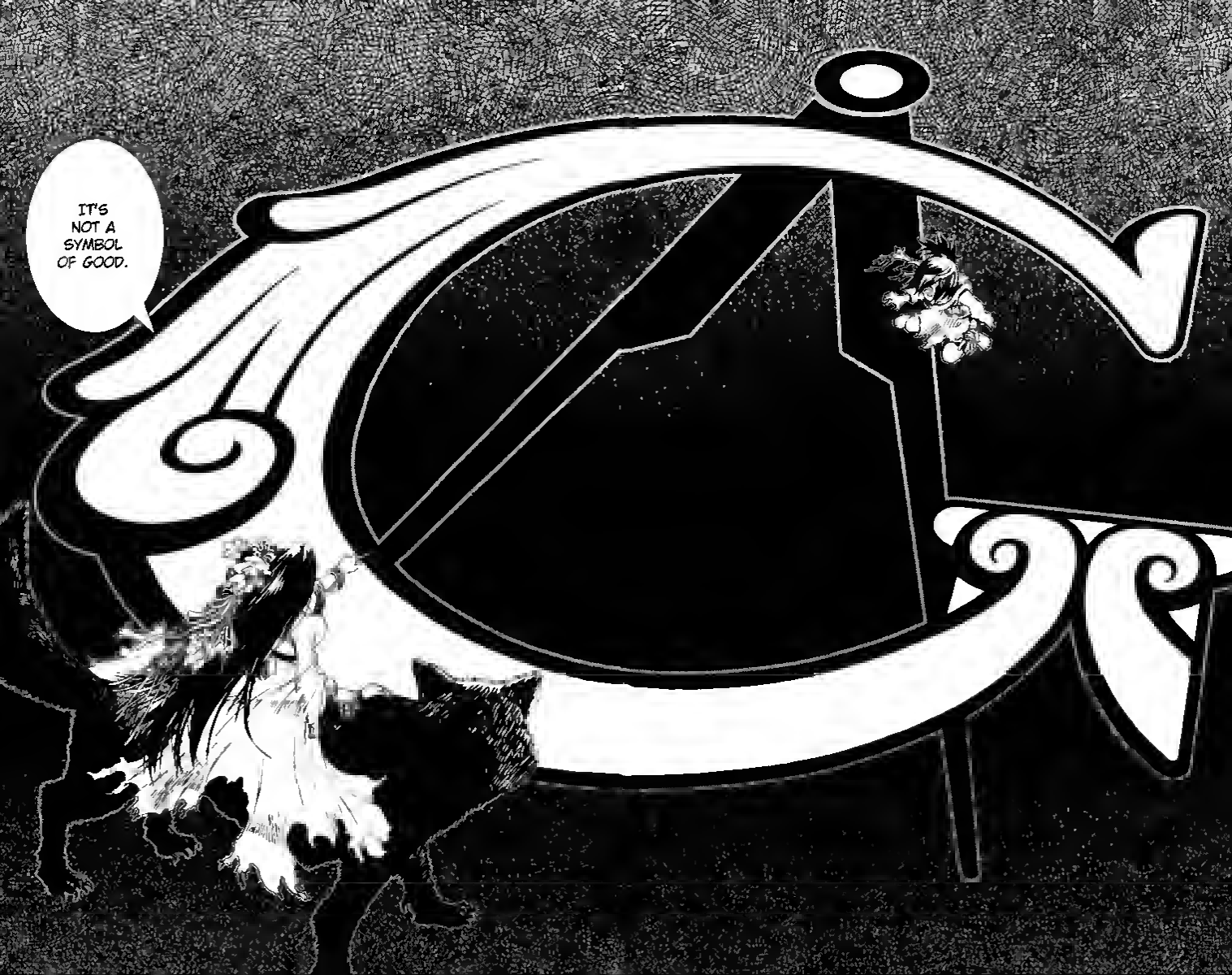
YAAAAAAAYYYYY!!!
OUR LORD HAS SHOWN US THE WAY. HE HAS SHOWN US THE POSITION OF THE SACRED ITEM! NOW, LET US FREE IT FROM THE HANDS OF THE HERETICS!

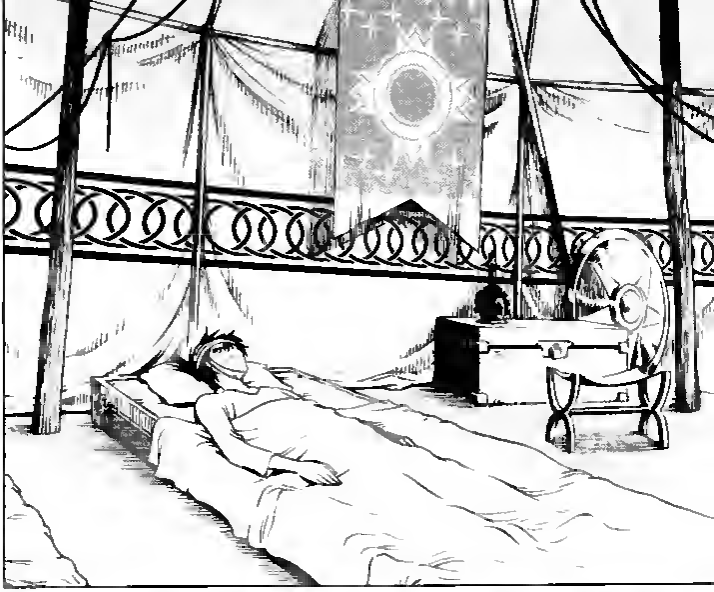
HEY,
WAKE UP.
YOU RETARDED LITTLE TART!

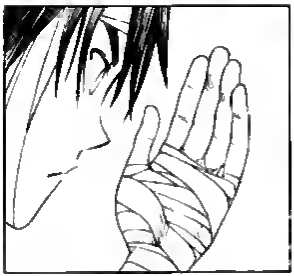
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA PLAY DEAD? GET UP!
LISTEN UP, KID. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
IF ONE DAY YOU REMEMBER THE TROUBLE YOU HAD WITH YOUR LEFT HAND...

MISTRESS ...
WATCH OUT FOR A CREST.
A CREST? WHAT CREST?

IF YOU SEE IT, RUN.
BECAUSE ...


IT'S NOT A SYMBOL OF GOOD.





WHERE IS THIS? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

Hah
Hah
Hah

Hah
WHY WEREN'T WE KILLED? WHY DID WE RECEIVE TREATMENT HERE?
I REMEMBER! WE WERE IN THE ENEMY GROUNDS FOR SOME REASON, AND CAPTAIN KEI LIE WAS GREATLY WOUNDED. I WAS CARRYING HIM ON MY BACK, AND THEN
NO SHACKLES. THEY'RE NOT AFRAID OF US RUNNING AWAY...?
WHAT ARE THEY SCHEMING?

隆隆隆

AAAH
NNAAAH
THEY'RE...
ATTACKING SHA...?

WAKE UP?
GOOD?
LET BING TING HANDLE THIS.
EASY.
!
!
!

WHAT?
MISUN-DER-STAND-ING!
NOT ATTACK! NOT ATTACK!
LOOK!
山月
隆隆
IT'S MARAUDERS OF WESTERN LIAO!

WAIT... WHERE'RE THE GARRISONED TROOPS IN SHA?
YOU'RE FIGHTING MARAUDERS? THEY USUALLY ONLY RAID MERCHANTS AND TRAVELERS. WHY ARE THEY...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
WHAT SACRED ITEM?
SACRED ITEM?
LEFT?
THEY LEFT! LEFT WITH THE SACRED ITEM!

WE ARE CRUSADERS ...
FROM JERUSALEM.

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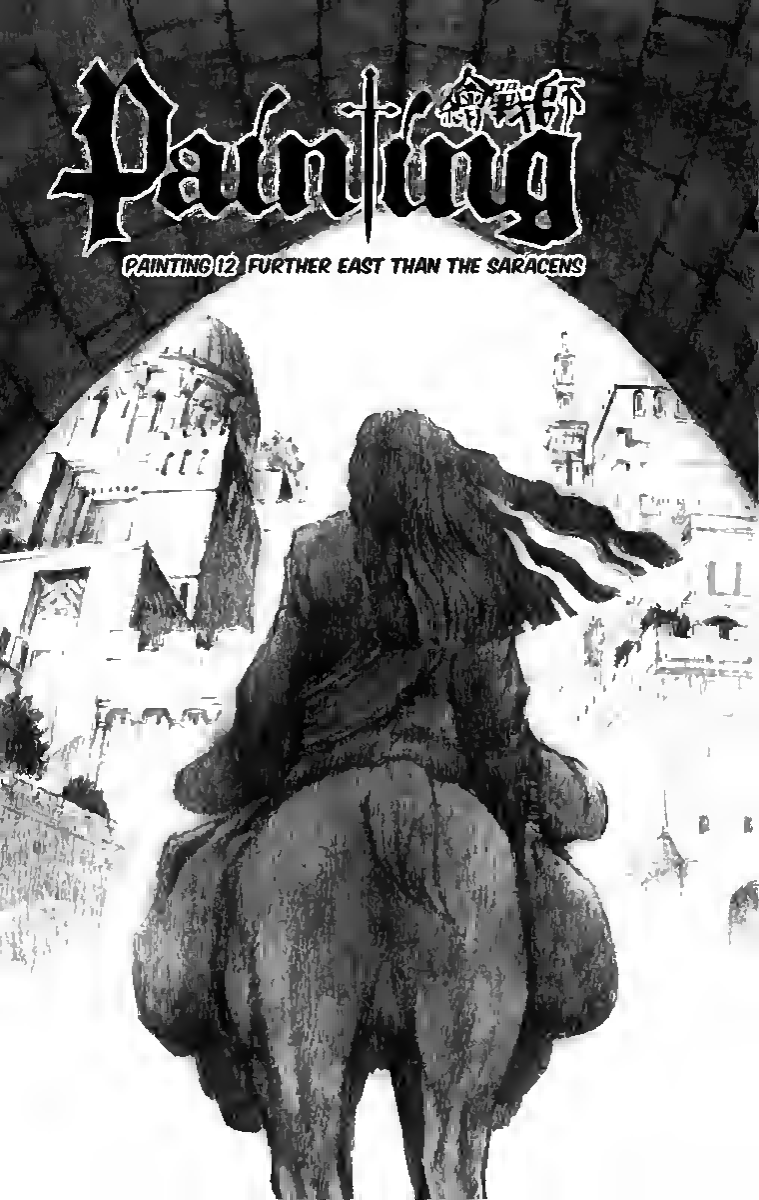
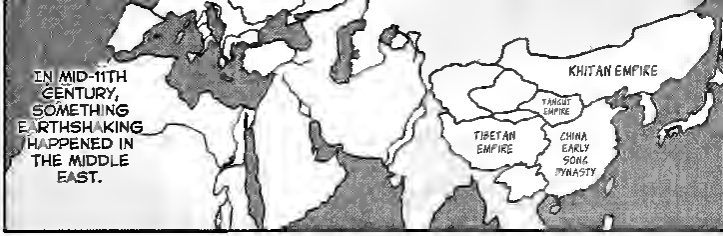
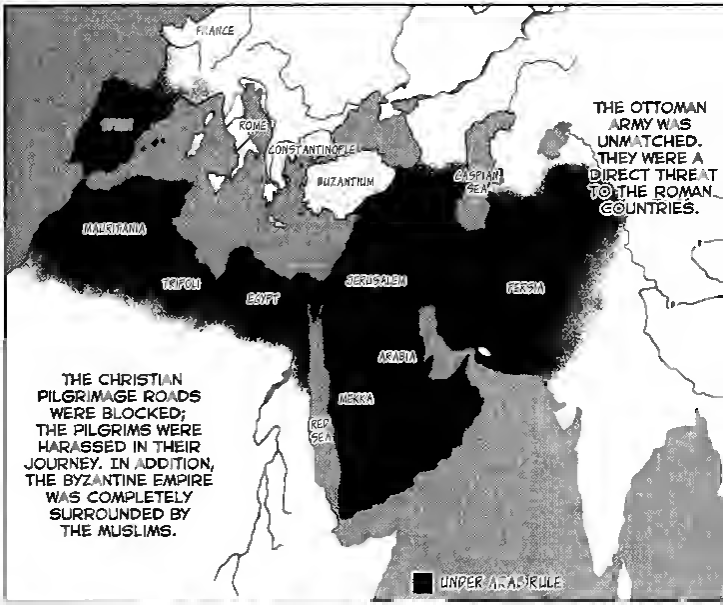
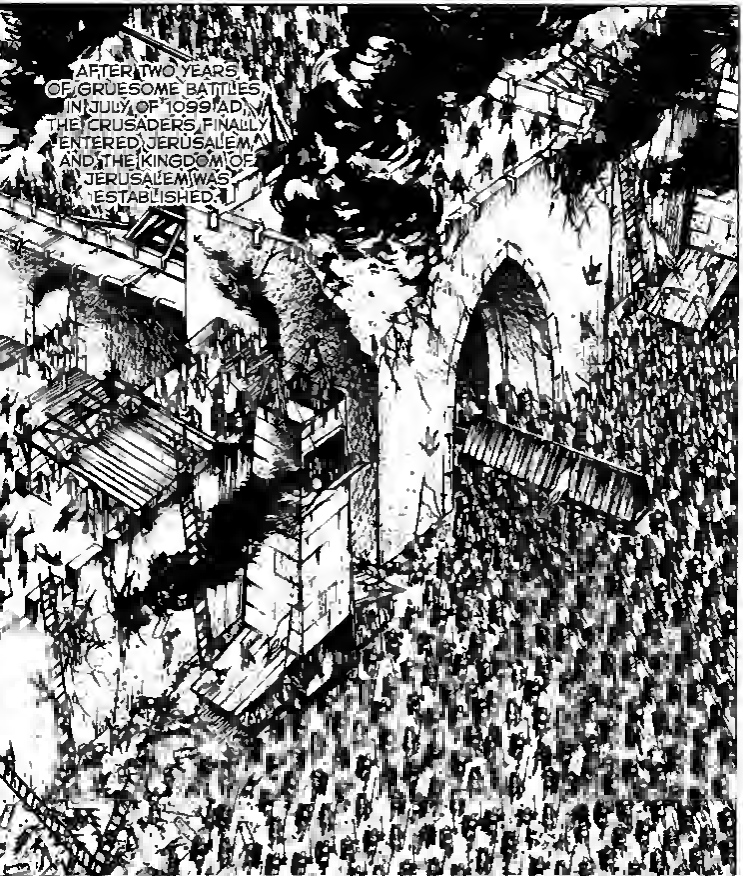

Painting
PAINTING 12. FURTHER EAST THAN THE SARACENS

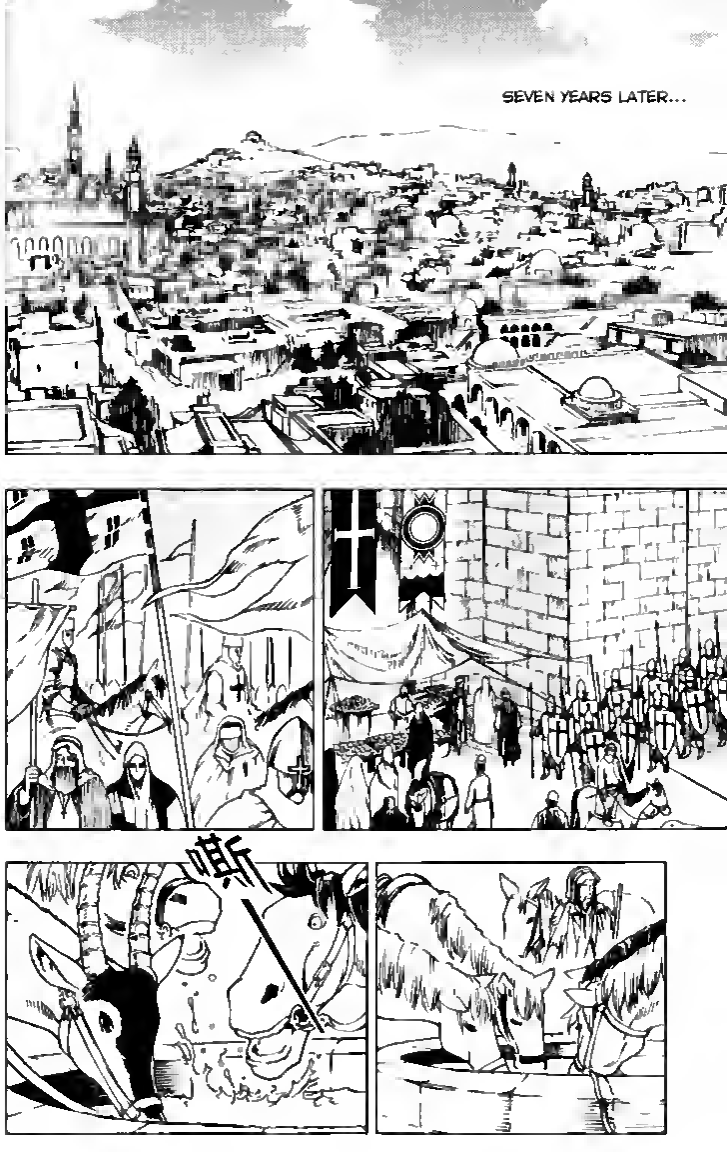

IN MID-11TH CENTURY, SOMETHING EARTHSHAKING HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
KHITAN EMPIRE
TANGUT EMPIRE
TIBETAN EMPIRE
CHINA EARLY SONG DYNASTY


FRANCE
ROME
CONSTANTINOPLE
BUZANTHUM
CASPIAN SEA
MAURITANIA
TRIPOLI
EGYPT
JERUSALEM
PERSIA
ARABIA
MEKKA
RED SEA
UNDER ARAB RULE
THE OTTOMAN ARMY WAS UNMATCHED. THEY WERE A DIRECT THREAT TO THE ROMAN COUNTRIES.
THE CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE ROADS WERE BLOCKED; THE PILGRIMS WERE HARASSED IN THEIR JOURNEY. IN ADDITION, THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE WAS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE MUSLIMS.

IN NOVEMBER, 1095 AD, POPE URBAN II CALLED UPON ALL CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE TO CONFRONT THE OTTOMAN HERETICS, DEFEND THEIR RELIGION, AND TO RECONQUEST THE SACRED CITY OF JERUSALEM.

THE CRUSADERS, MADE UP LARGELY OF KNIGHTS AND NOBLES, GATHERED IN CONSTANTINOPLE IN 1097 AD. AFTER MONTHS OF BATTLE, THEY OCCUPIED A FEW CITIES AROUND ANTAKYA. HOWEVER, BEFORE LONG, THEY WERE SURROUNDED AGAIN BY THE TURKS.


AFTER TWO YEARS OF GRUESOME BATTLES, IN JULY OF 1099 AD, THE CRUSADERS FINALLY ENTERED JERUSALEM AND THE KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM WAS ESTABLISHED.

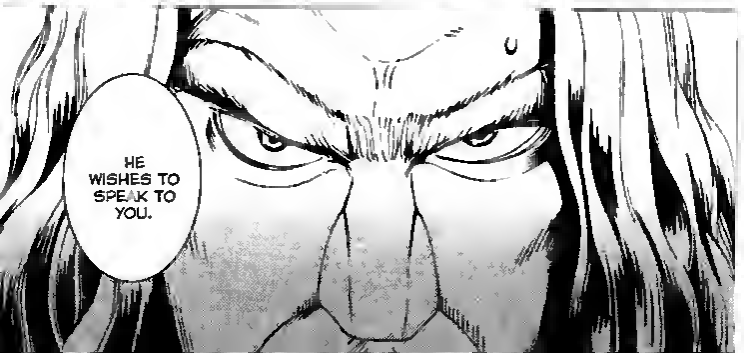

SEVEN YEARS LATER...
嘶斯

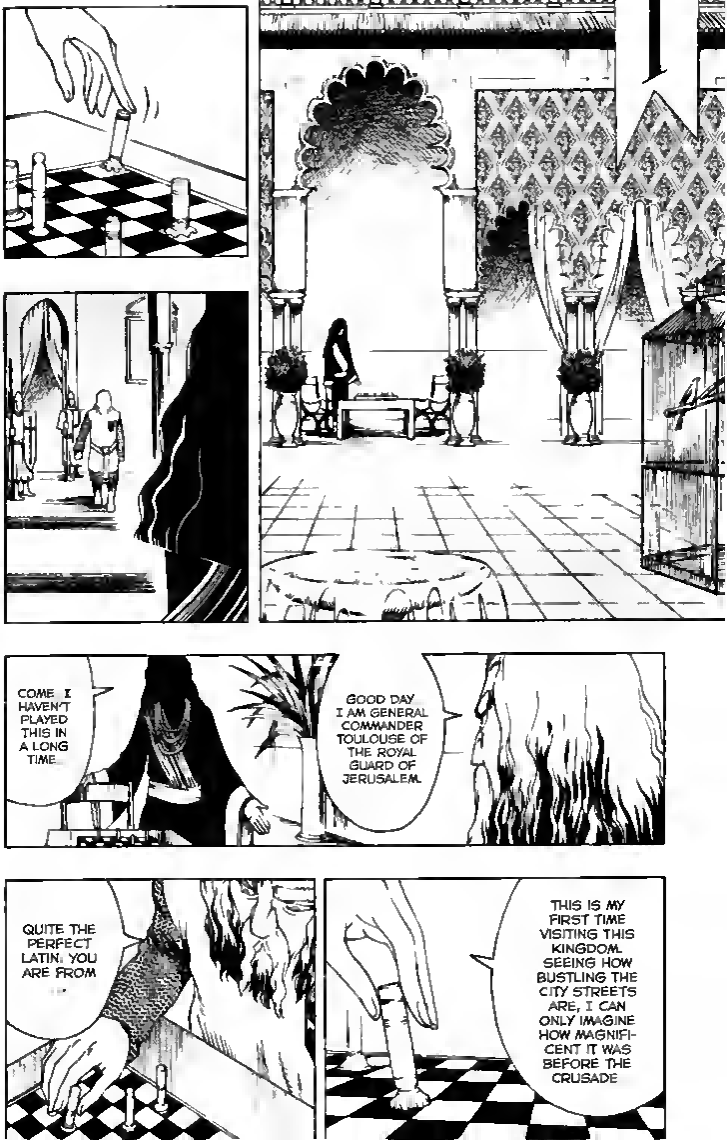
ROYAL GUARD
CENTRAL COMMAND
SIR TOULOUSE, A BUNCH OF PEOPLE IN WEIRD CLOTHES AND RIDING HUMONGOUS SHEEP ARRIVED TO THE CENTRAL SQUARE!

THIS IS THE KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM. MERCHANTS AND TRAVELLERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COME HERE EVERYDAY. WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT THAT?
THEY'RE FROM THE EAST, AND THEY SPEAK PERFECT LATIN!
NO, SIR! THEY'RE FROM FURTHER EAST THAN THE SARACENS, AND...
SARACENS ARE CRAWLING THE STREETS HERE. LOTS OF PEOPLE SPEAK BETTER LATIN THAN YOU!

※ SARACENS MEANS "EASTERNERS" IN LATIN (IN THAT TIME PERIOD). REFERRING TO PEOPLE RESIDING AROUND ARABIA AND PERSIA

THEIR LEADER SAYS THAT HE KNOWS ABOUT MARQUISE ANTIOCH'S MISSION.


HE WISHES TO SPEAK TO YOU.


COME. I HAVEN'T PLAYED THIS IN A LONG TIME.
GOOD DAY. I AM GENERAL COMMANDER TOULOUSE OF THE ROYAL GUARD OF JERUSALEM.
QUITE THE PERFECT LATIN. YOU ARE FROM
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME VISITING THIS KINGDOM. SEEING HOW BUSTLING THE CITY STREETS ARE, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW MAGNIFICENT IT WAS BEFORE THE CRUSADE

SEVEN YEARS AGO, IT TOOK YOU GOD-LOVING CHRISTIANS A MONTH TO ENTER JERUSALEM. AS SOON AS YOU ENTERED, A MASSACRE BEGAN.
ISLAMIC HEADS ROLLED NEITHER WOMEN NOR CHILDREN WERE SPARED IT WAS A LIVING HELL.
INRI
AS IF SINGING GOD'S NAME WILL CANCEL OUT YOUR SINS....
YOU SIMULTANEOUSLY HARBOUR SUCH DEVOTION TO RELIGION AND SUCH CRUELTY TO OTHER HUMANS - IT'S QUITE AMAZING
AND THEN, YOU TRAVELLED TO THE PILGRIMAGE SITE OF BETHLEHEM, BIRTHPLACE OF JESUS. YOU SANG HYMNS IN 9-VOICE CHORUSES AND DEVOTED YOURSELVES TO PRAYER.

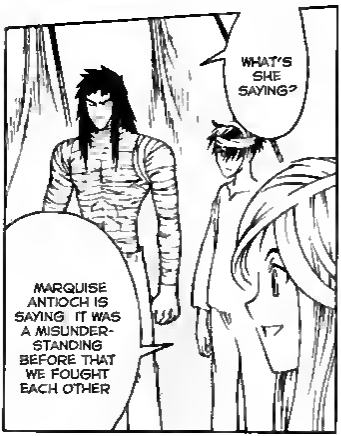
MAYBE IT'S KARMA, OR PERHAPS YOU WOULD CALL IT GOD'S WILL. ONE OF THE ITEMS HAS TRAVELLED FAR AND IS CURRENTLY IN MY HOME COUNTRY.
CHECK.
THEY'RE ENEMIES OF OUR LORD! DEFENDING THE HOLY LAND IS OUR DUTY AS HIS CHILDREN. THOSE WHO DIED IN THE ENDEAVOR WILL RECEIVE REMISSION OF THEIR SINS!
OF COURSE. THIS IS HEAVEN - EVERYTHING'S YOURS. NO WONDER YOU FELLAS GOT YOURSELVES A "KING" AND A "KINGDOM", AND REFUSED TO RETURN TO EUROPE.
YOU DO KNOW THAT HERETICS FROM THE EAST ARE RIGOROUSLY INTERROGATED UPON ENTRY TO THE HOLY CITY?
LOOK, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM THE FAR EAST. ARE YOU HERE JUST TO TELL ME SECRETS THAT EVERYONE KNOWS?
YOU... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY!?
I ONLY KNOW ONE THING. BEFORE YOU ENTERED JERUSALEM, THE MUSLIMS HAD ALREADY REMOVED SOME SACRED ITEMS FROM THE CITY.

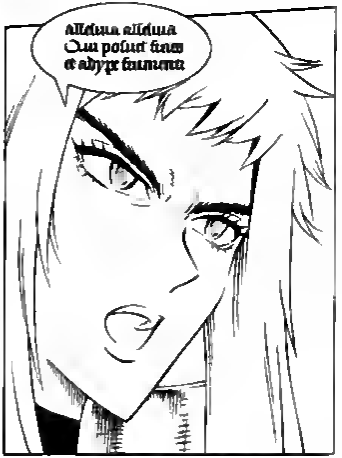
YAAAAAAAAAAAAA
隆隆隆
JERUSALEM. THAT ITEM WAS HIDDEN BY OUR ANCESTORS IN THE SECRET PASSAGES OF JERUSALEM.
YOU WANT TO TAKE THE SACRED ITEM AND GO BACK TO YERUSA...?

SEVEN YEARS AGO, THE HOLY CITY WAS FINALLY RECONQUERED BY THE CRUSADERS, BUT... THE SACRED ITEMS WERE REMOVED AND SENT TO DIFFERENT PLACES IN THE WORLD...
IN THE PAST FEW HUNDRED YEARS, JERUSALEM WAS FOUGHT OVER AND CLAIMED BY MANY COUNTRIES.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T KILL US? SO WE'D HELP YOU GET THEM BACK?
CAPTAIN KEI LIE.

YOU LOT WANNA FIGHT?
I'M GAME.

Novus ordo
seclorum


WHAT'S SHE SAYING?
MARQUISE ANTIOCH IS SAYING IT WAS A MISUNDER-STANDING BEFORE THAT WE FOUGHT EACH OTHER


Alleluia alleluia
Qui potuit fieri
et ubique fecunda

YES. YOUR SECOND-IN-COMMAND LEFT WITH THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT THE SACRED ITEM. HE TOOK A LOT OF YOUR MEN WITH HIM.
I'VE GOT INTELLIGENCE THE PLACE YOU LIVE IN
THE STATE OF SHA.
YOUR COMMANDER WAS PROBABLY KILLED.
ALL THAT IS LEFT IN YOUR CITY IS THE CIVILIANS, SO...
THEY BETRAYED THE GENERAL COMMANDER!? THIS IS SERIOUS!

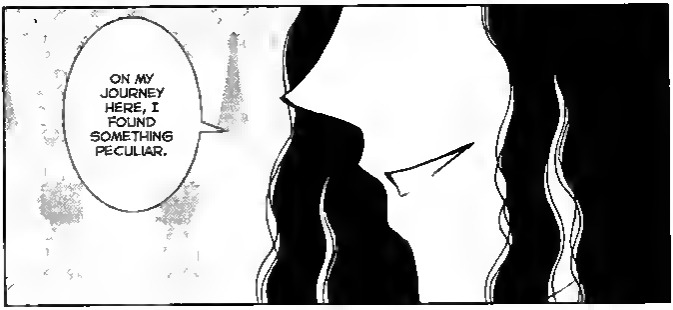
MARAUDERS FROM THE WEST MUST'VE GOTTEN WIND AND COME TO ROB YOUR CITY. EVEN THOUGH IT'S TECHNICALLY NONE OF OUR BUSINESS,
WE DON'T WANT TO SEE UNNECESSARY DEATHS IN OUR QUEST FOR THE SACRED ITEM.
YA
YA
YA
YA

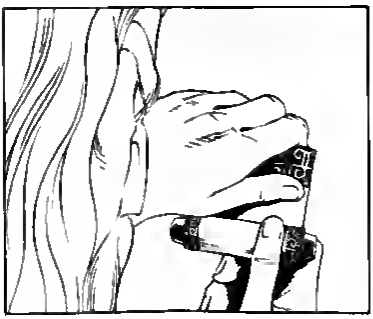
洪泰!
HONG TAI!

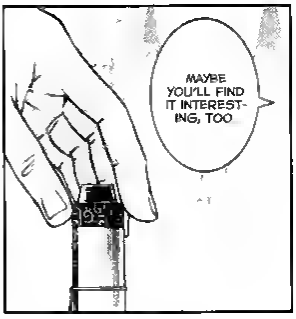
YOUR WOUNDS REOPENED!

AND SO, THE KING OF JERUSALEM SENT MARQUISE ANTIOCH TO THE EAST WITH 90,000 CRUSADERS IN SEARCH FOR ONE OF THE SACRED ITEMS.

SO MANY MEN FOR ONE ITEM... IT MUST BE IMPORTANT TO YOU.


ON MY JOURNEY HERE, I FOUND SOMETHING PECULIAR.




MAYBE YOU'LL FIND IT INTEREST-ING, TOO

THIS IS...
MY APOLOGIES FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF PROPERLY.
WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU?

I AM JIA TENG OF THE TANGUT EMPIRE.

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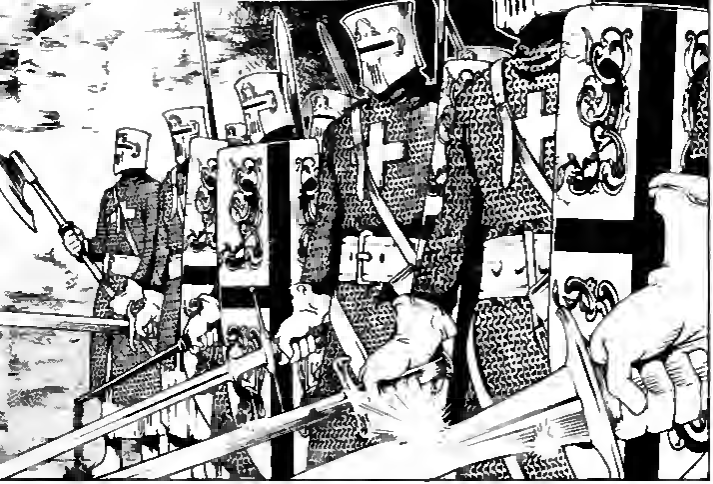
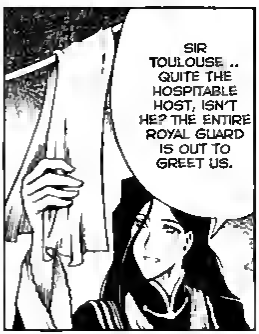
PAINTING 13 TWO OF THEM

MASTER, ARE WE GOING BACK NOW? THE THREE OF US COULD STAY AND GATHER INTELLIGENCE FOR YOU...
IT'S FINE. I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR BESIDES, YOU WOULD STAND OUT TOO MUCH AS AN EASTERNER IN JERUSALEM.
LOOK, WE ALREADY HAVE AN AUDIENCE!



MASTER, THEY'RE BEHIND US, TOO!

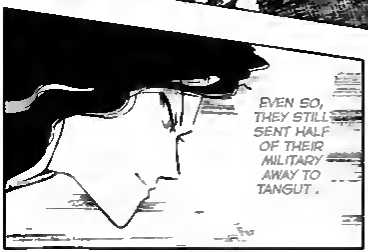
I DO APOLOGIZE ... BUT WE ARE IN A HURRY TO RETURN HOME.

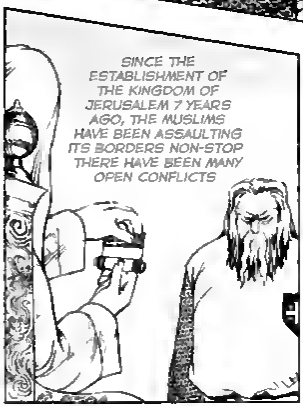

SIR TOULOUSE .. QUITE THE HOSPITABLE HOST, ISN'T HE? THE ENTIRE ROYAL GUARD IS OUT TO GREET US.

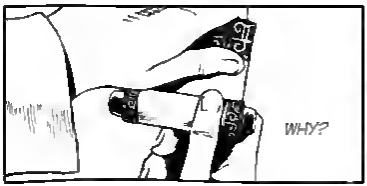
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T STAY!
HA!

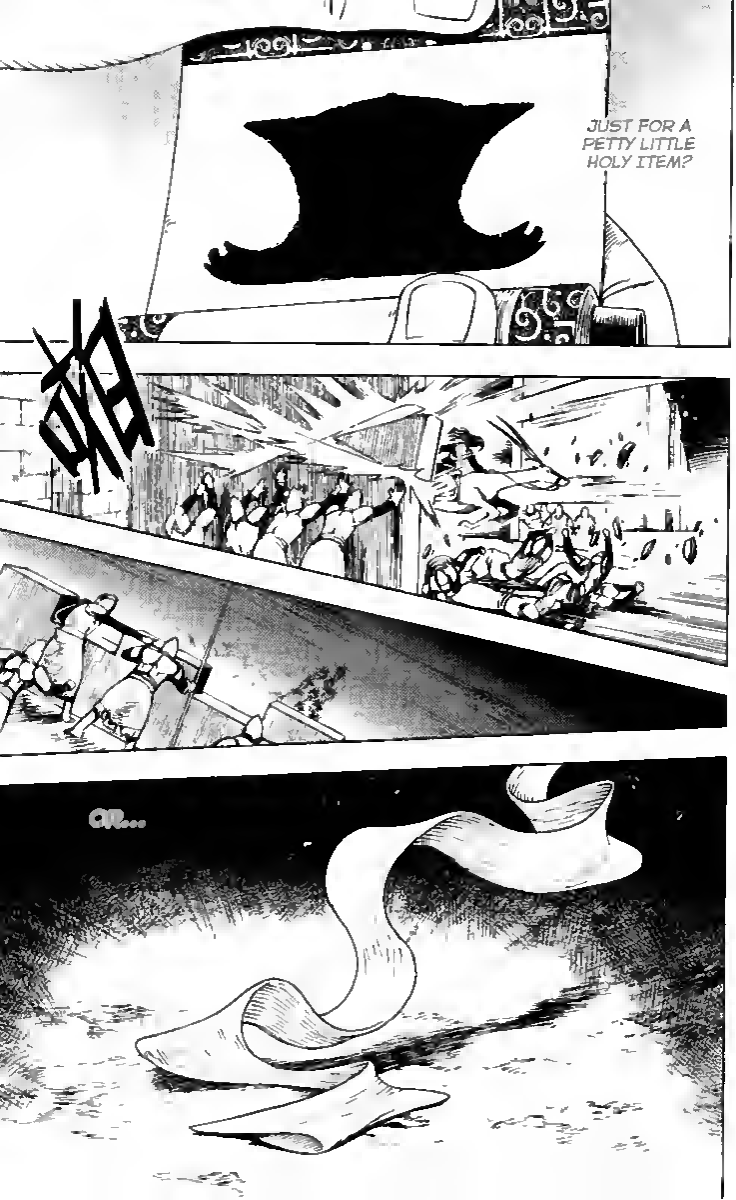
I WILL PAY BACK HIS HOSPITALITY A HUNDRED FOLD!
RELAY A MESSAGE FOR ME TO THE GOOD SIR IF HE VISITS TANGUT ONE DAY

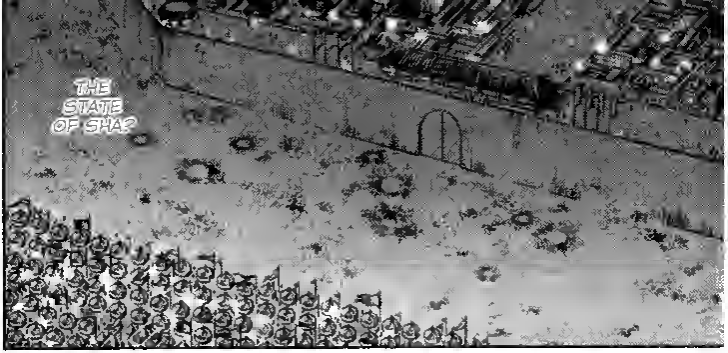
I'M ONLY HERE FOR ONE THING.


EVEN SO, THEY STILL SENT HALF OF THEIR MILITARY AWAY TO TANGUT.


SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM 7 YEARS AGO, THE MUSLIMS HAVE BEEN ASSAULTING ITS BORDERS NON-STOP THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OPEN CONFLICTS


WHY?

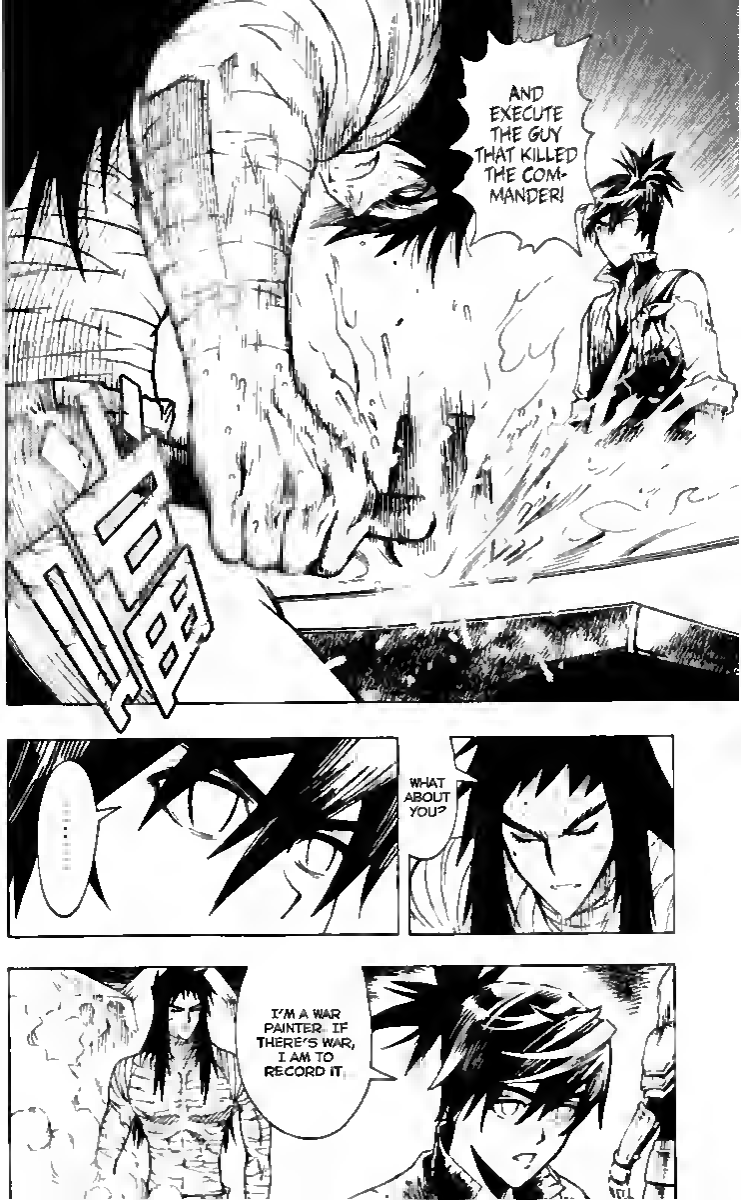

JUST FOR A PETTY LITTLE HOLY ITEM?
SHA
AH...


THE STATE OF SHA?

OT
OT
OT
I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE CITY. ALL THE SOLDIERS ARE GONE, JUST LIKE WHAT'S-HER-NAME SAID

HONG TAI EVEN KILLED ALL OFFICERS THAT REFUSED TO FOLLOW HIM... HE EMPTIED OUR GRANARIES, TOOK ALL THE MEN, AND FOLLOWED THE SECRETARY OF WAR TOWARDS THE EAST...
OT
OT
咚咚

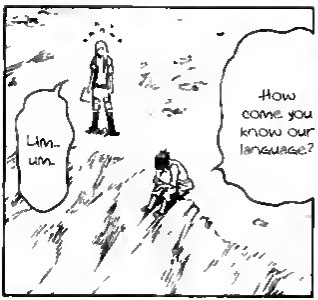
THE WOMAN HAD THE KILLED OFFICERS BURIED.
嗤
嗤
嗤
嗤
嗤
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA FOLLOW THE CRUSADERS FROM NOW ON?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE HOLY ITEMS OR WHATEVER
I JUST WANT MY MEN BACK!
AND?


AND EXECUTE THE GUY THAT KILLED THE COMMANDER!
...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M A WAR PAINTER. IF THERE'S WAR, I AM TO RECORD IT.

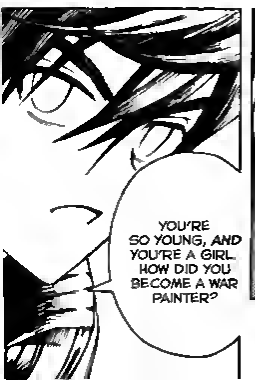
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
HERE.
(THE ILLUSTRATION)
I LOST!

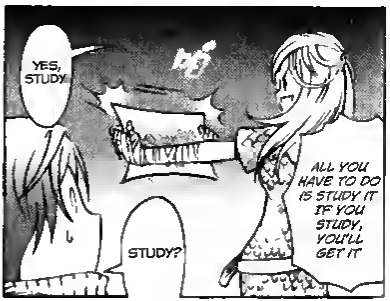
I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE! HOW COME YOU. .
I MISTOOK IT FOR MINE THE FIRST TIME WE MET...
THE DOCTOR SAID IT'S JUST FLESH WOUNDS IT'LL BE FINE EVENTUALLY I CAN'T DRAW ANYTHING NOW, THOUGH.
YOUR HANDS ...?
DOESN'T IT FEEL KIND OF WEIRD HERE? LET'S GO OVER THERE
?
?
?
I'M SORRY
LAST TIME, WHEN YOU CAME OUT OF NOWHERE INTO THE PRIESTS' TENT, YOU SCARED EVERYONE!
I'M BING TING. NICE TO MEET YOU!
TAO HUI.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT THAT NIGHT EITHER. THE SOLDIERS FILLED ME IN LATER. I DON'T REMEMBER HOW MY HANDS GOT HURT, EITHER.
HE FOUGHT HIS WAY OUT OF OUR BAR RACKS AND THEN YOU APPEARED IN THE CONFUSION
BEFORE THAT, CAPTAIN KEI LIE APPEARED OUT OF THIN AIR. TOO HE KILLED A LOT OF OUR SOLDIERS.


Lim... um.
How come you know our language?

BY THE WAY, WHY DID YOU APOLOGIZE TO ME JUST NOW?
Ah... It's... no reason.


YOU'RE SO YOUNG, AND YOU'RE A GIRL. HOW DID YOU BECOME A WAR PAINTER?

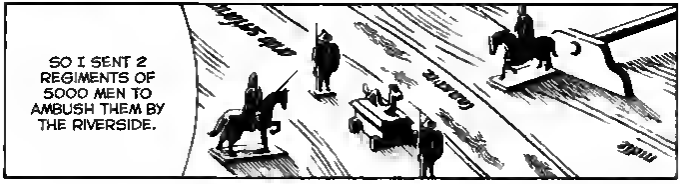

YES, STUDY
STUDY?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STUDY IT. IF YOU STUDY, YOU'LL GET IT

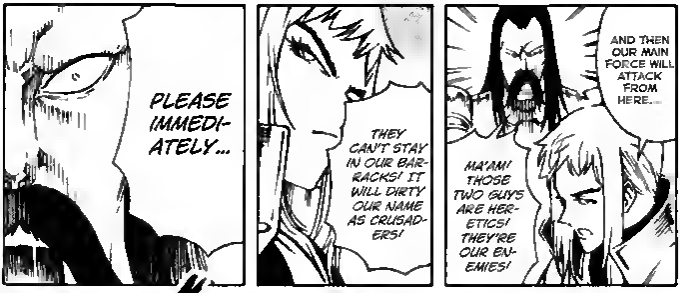
IT'S GOD'S WILL.

GOD'S ...
WILL?

YES... GOD SENT ME HERE TO THE EAST. I WILL FIND EVERYTHING I'VE LOST HERE... INCLUDING MY ...
WE'RE MOVING OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING TOMORROW. LET'S GO BACK.
GOD...?
GOD'S WILL?

THE SOIL'S POOR AROUND HERE. OUR ENEMIES HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR SURE, BUT THEY'LL STILL BE FOLLOWING THE WATERS.


SO I SENT 2 REGIMENTS OF 5000 MEN TO AMBUSH THEM BY THE RIVERSIDE.


PLEASE IMMEDIATELY...
THEY CAN'T STAY IN OUR BARRACKS! IT WILL DIRTY OUR NAME AS CRUSADERS!
MA'AM! THOSE TWO GUYS ARE HERETICS! THEY'RE OUR ENEMIES!
AND THEN OUR MAIN FORCE WILL ATTACK FROM HERE...

THAT MAN IS A LOYAL FOOL. ALL THAT'S IN HIS MIND RIGHT NOW IS REVENGE FOR HIS MASTER. I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT IN MY PLANS.
CHIEF OF FIELD OPERATIONS HERLE, DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN POINT FINGERS NOW JUST BECAUSE I ALLOWED YOU TO KILL THOSE GOONS IN WHITE.
I DON'T CARE IF HE BELIEVES IN GOD. IF A HERETIC CAN HELP ME OBTAIN THE HOLY ITEM, SO BE IT.

AND THAT BOY...
This. this drawing...
THIS IS... THE SWORD THE MARQUISE USED TO KILL THAT BOY..!
THAT'S RIGHT! LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING WHAT WERE OUR ORDERS WHEN WE LEFT JERU-SALEM?

FIRST, BRING BACK THE HOLY ITEM THAT THE MUSLIMS STOLE FROM US 7 YEARS AGO!
SECOND, FIND THE BOY WHO DISAPPEARED FROM ROME.
SECOND!
CALLED... THE DEVIL'S LEFT HAND.

AMEN.

AND SO
THEY MEET.

BY NOW, THOSE WHO LIKE SECRET ORGANIZATIONS AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES SHOULD ALREADY HAVE NOTICED THE TWO HINTS IN THE STORY.

THE FIRST IS THE LINE ON THE HOLY ITEM. THE SECOND IS THE PICTURE IN TAO HUI'S DREAMS, THE ONE THAT HIS MISTRESS WARNED HIM ABOUT.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE LINE ON THE HOLY ITEM FIRST. IT'S LATIN, AND IT SAYS "NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM", MEANING "NEW ORDER OF THE AGES". THAT'S THE MOTTO OF A CERTAIN ORGANIZATION. YOU CAN ALSO FIND THAT LINE ON THE CURRENCY OF A CERTAIN COUNTRY...

NEXT, THE PICTURE IN TAO HUI'S DREAMS. IT'S THE LETTER G AND A COMPASS. I MADE THAT DESIGN UP USING SOME SIGNS AND LOGOS OF THE ORGANIZATION I SPOKE OF BEFORE.

THAT'S CORRECT, I AM HINTING TOWARDS ONE OF THE MOST UNSECRETIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN ALL THE SECRET ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORLD. IT'S AN ENORMOUS ORGANIZATION WITH OVER 6,000,000 MEMBERS AND THOUSANDS OF CHAPTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE HAVE THEM IN HONG KONG AND TAIWAN TOO. EACH CHAPTER HAS ITS OWN RITES AND RITUALS DEPENDING ON THE REGION OR COUNTRY THEY'RE IN. THERE'RE ALSO LOTS OF THEORIES AS TO HOW THE ORGANIZATION WAS INITIATED AND WHAT ROLES IT PLAYED IN HISTORY.

A NUMBER OF THEORISTS THINK THAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY DESTRUCTIVE EVENTS IN THE WORLD. THEY CLAIM THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION OF RUSSIA, AND EVEN THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL. EVEN TODAY, THE ORGANIZATION IS STILL BE ACCUSED OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS RIGGING POLLS, AND ASSASSINATIONS OF POLITICAL FIGURES. ONE THING ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION IS CERTAINLY TRUE: THE MODERN HISTORY OF THE WESTERN WORLD IS WRITTEN ALMOST ENTIRELY BY ITS MEMBERS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS ORGANIZATION HAS A VAST INFLUENCE ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD.

PROOFER NOTE: INSECRETIVE ISN'T A WORD, BUT IT CARRIES A NUANCE THAT NO SUBSTITUTE CAN FILL. THANKS TO OUR TL AND HER CANADIAN DICTIONARY FOR THIS FLASH OF BRILLIANCE!

EVEN IF THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE TERRORIST ATTACKS WE'VE BEEN SEEING / GUESS THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO TELL
BUT DON'T WORRY, THEY WON'T BE COMING AFTER US SMALL FRIES.
I'll talk to you more next time.

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Painting 繪戰師

PAINTING 14 TOWARDS THE BELOVED GOLO

ウオン
YAAA

斬
RAAAA
破
洪
洪
洪

WE DON'T HAVE FOREVER!
DAMN FOOLS.
THE 8TH PLATOON IS ENGAGED IN BATTLE WITH THE ENEMY RIGHT NOW NOT TO WORRY -THEY'LL NEVER BREAK OUR LINE OF DEFENSE
BE AT EASE MY MASTER
HOLLA, PUSH!
IF AND WHEN THEIR MAIN FORCE SHOWS UP
PULL!
WE'VE RUN RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP THIS IS JUST THEIR AMBUSH TEAM
BUT

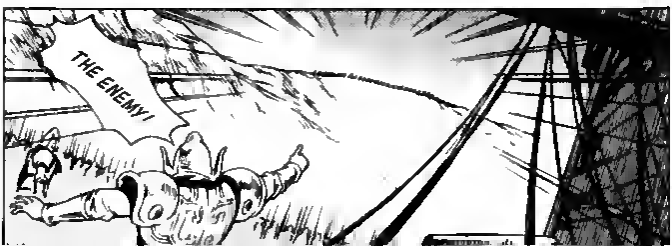
EVERYTHING IS ACCORDING TO PLAN
Yes! Yes sir!
THEN GET YOUR ASS DOWN THERE ALREADY! THIRD PLATOON'S PULLING THE CAR RIASE!
Ah. Im from the 3rd
WHICH PLATOON ARE YOU IN? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SHIT. XIAO HU, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE GONNA DIE HERE!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T'VE FOLLOWED THESE TROOPS, AFTER ALL...

THAT DAY, I FOUND THIS SECRET PATHWAY BY CHANCE.
BUT IT LEAD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR'S SWANKY CARRIAGE! WHO KNEW!?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD LEAD TO SOME SORT OF A TREASURY
ON TOP OF THAT THE COMMANDER AND SUB-COMMANDER WERE FORCING THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GET THAT WEIRD THING IN THE CARRIAGE
SHIT, I'M GONNA DIE! I JUST WITNESSED A MURDER BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS!
GOD, ARE YOU PLAYING ME!?
AND THAT THING STARTED SHOOTING LASERS!

TRUTH
COURAGE
JUSTICE
WHEN THAT HAPPENS I'LL BECOME RICH AND IF I MOUS I MIGHT EVEN BE APPOINTED AS THE HEAD WAR PAINTER!
BUT THEN I THOUGHT "IF I EXPOSE THEM AS A WAR PAINTER IT COULD ROCK THE ENTIRE EMPIRE OF TANGLE!

BUT THREE AND A HALF WAS A SLAVE FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR... I COULDN'T GATHER ANYTHING!

SO HERE I AM


THE ENEMY!

EVERYONE, RETREAT!
PREPARE TO FIGHT!
NO!
THIS BATTLE

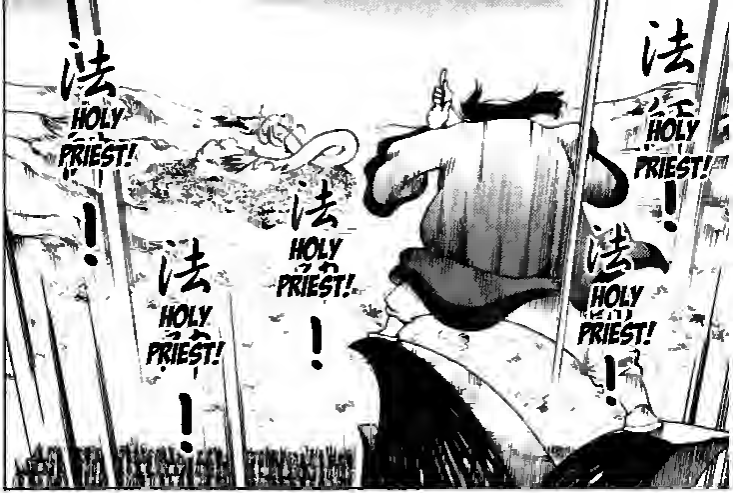
隆隆隆隆隆
TASTE THE WRATH OF TANGUT!
DEMONS FROM ANOTHER LAND...
WILL BE HANDLED BY THE HOLY PRIEST.

TAKE THESE SACRIFICES OF HELL MONEY, AND REPORT YOURSELVES TO THE COURT OF DEATH!

ガン
ガン
ガン

DAMN! WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO THEM...
We're being swallowed!

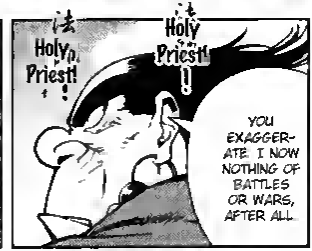
What... is
WAAAAAAAA
ARCHERS
隆隆隆
牙
吁
嗤


法
HOLY PRIEST!
法
HOLY PRIEST!
法
HOLY PRIEST!
法
HOLY PRIEST!
法
HOLY PRIEST!

SEEMS LIKE MY TROOPS LIKE YOU.
WHEN THE HOLY PRIEST IS WITH US WE, THE SOLDIERS, SURE ARE GETTING OFF EASY

法
HOLY PRIEST!
法
HOLY PRIEST!
法
HOLY PRIEST!

OUR ENEMIES ARE QUITE THE TRICKSTERS...


法
Holy Priest!
Holy Priest!!
YOU EXAGGERATE. I NOW NOTHING OF BATTLES OR WARS, AFTER ALL.

THE SAFETY OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND THE HOLY ITEM STILL RELIES ON YOU SUB-COMMANDER.
TRUE. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO FIGHT, TOO...
OR THE HOLY PRIEST WILL BE TAKING ALL THE CREDIT FOR THIS BATTLE.
STILL SWINGING AROUND LIKE A MONKEY, I SEE.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT.

AND HEADS ALWAYS ROLL WHEN I SWING BY.
NOW, THEN. WHICH OF US WILL DIE TODAY?

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繪戰部
Painting
PAINTING IS TO HONOUR OUR LORD

I HEARD YOU CALL YOURSELF THE "BEST EXECUTIONER IN TANGUT"...
!
TAP
LET'S SEE HOW FAST YOU...

FAST, INDEED.
YOU TOO. NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN BLOCK MY SWORD.
咔
咔
咔
SHOULDN'T YOU BE YELLING "WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!?" OR SOMETHING, MR. GOOD GUY?
I WON'T I KNOW YOU'LL HAVE SOME PETTY ANSWER LIKE "THE STRONGEST WARRIOR SEEKS THE MOST POWERFUL MASTER"

I HAVEN'T CHANGED YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BECOME A SLAVE TO POWER AND MONEY!
OOH, SMART, AREN'T WE? I THOUGHT YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER BLOKE WHO HANGS ONTO YOUR STUPID LOYALTY UNTIL YOU DIE
HIS SWORD IS FAST. BUT...

可惡！
HE'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THAT PERSON...!
！

AN OK SPEED, BUT DO YOU HONESTLY EXPECT TO DEFEAT ME BY USING THE SAME TECHNIQUE TWICE!?

I TRIED GOING AT YOUR SPEED SO YOU CAN ACTUALLY BLOCK ME. TOO BAD YOU UNDERESTIMATED MY POWER, THOUGH.
MOVE!
They're... Finally... Finally here...
LOOK!

隆唔 唔 唔 唔 唔
VINCE AND THE ELITES, STAY IN THE CENTRE. FOLLOW MY LEAD!!
SAFFELLE, RIGHT WING!
MA'AM!
LEFT WING, KITTY!

SWORDS READY!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GUIDANCE, MY LORD. WE HAVE FOUND THE HOLY ITEM!
THOSE THAT DIE TO RECLAIM OUR LORD'S TREASURE WILL RISE TO HEAVEN!
HAVE NO FEAR!
DO NOT HESI-TATE!
TO HONOUR OUR LORD!!
YOU WILL BE GREETED BY DEATH ... EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU!
殺ッ
AR-CHERS!

THE EASTERN STYLE IS SO INTERESTING! IT'S FORTH-RIGHT AND GENTLE AT THE SAME TIME.
IS YOUR MISTRESS A WAR PAINTER LIKE US? I'D LOVE TO MEET HER.
ANOTHER WOMAN THAT HAS THE LEISURE OF CRITIQUING ART STYLES IN BATTLE, HUH... I THOUGHT MISTRESS WAS THE ONLY ONE.
NO, SHE'S NOT. SHE'S JUST... WEIRD.
STAY AWAY FROM HER. STAY AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN!

FOOLISH BARBARIANS MY SUPPLY OF HELL MONEY IS ENDLESS. YOU WILL ALL BE GREETED BY DEATH!
THE DOOR TO HELL IS OPEN!
索!
LET ME DEAL WITH THAT MAN.. THE SERVANT OF THE DEVIL.
What the

GODDAMMIT, YOU BUNCHA MORONS! THIS IS THE TIME TO SHOW ME YOUR LOYALTY!
MAINTAIN THE FORMATION! PROTECT MY CARRIAGE!
隆
隆
隆
隆

HEH!
隆 隆 隆
隆 隆
隆 隆 隆 隆

嗡

WE GOT THE CARRIAGE OUT OF THE TRAP! LET'S MOVE!
哈哈
YOU'RE BLOCKING MY CARRIAGE, DUMBASSES GET OUTTA THE WAY!
USE YOUR COW POWER AND RUN!
Shit Sorry brothers
隆咔咔咔

EVERYONE ELSE, FOLLOW ME!
THEIR FORMATION'S BROKEN KITTY, DEAL WITH THE REST
ドガガ
ドガガ
ドガガ

DON'T SHOOT ME! GO OVER THERE.
SHOOT THE YAKS PULLING THE CARRIAGE!

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PAINTING 16 DISAGREEMENT

THE TWO VOICES ARE BACK AGAIN, AND THEY'RE COMING CLOSER!

IT MUST BE RELATED TO THE HOLY ITEM THAT BING TING MENTIONED. I'LL GO AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
THIS HAPPENED BEFORE IN SHA... IT'S CLEARER NOW, THOUGH.
LOOK
This is an important day for us all. We finally found the glory that the Lord intended for us.

You there! Paint this scene well!
We will not fall!
We will not fall!
We are led by Jesus! We will not fall!
This is all God's will!
This sacred moment will be remembered for all eternity!
TEXT: GOD'S WILL!
神的旨意!
神的旨意!
神的旨意!
神的旨意!
THE MARQUISE ASKED YOU TO PAINT THIS.
ALL OF THIS.

SFX: JIH
NOVUS

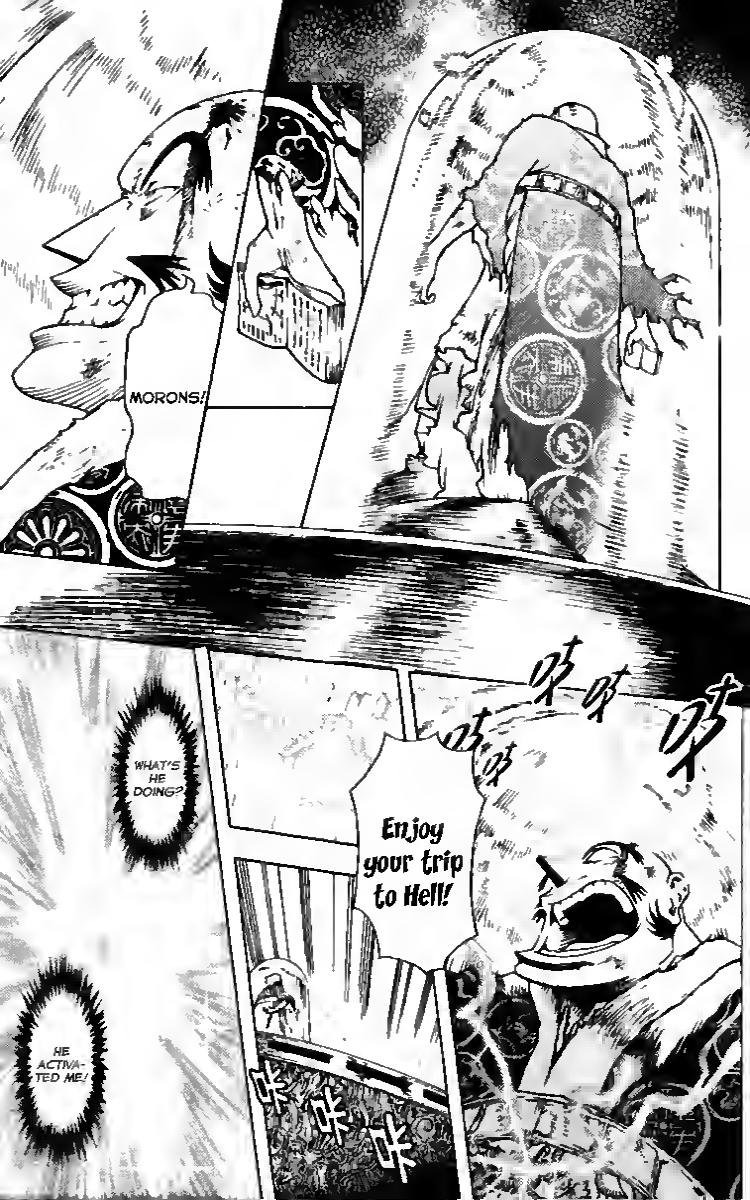
WHAT THE HELL IS IT?
IT'S THIS THING! THIS THING IS TALKING...
sectorum
nicat
alidus
fuscare
male
abyss

THIS... IS THE HOLY ITEM?
HA HAH HAH
HAHAHA
Sheesh. It's a lot more hectic than planned.
But we've finally succeeded
!

TAO HUI, WHAT'S WRONG?
No.. nothing..
ROUND UP ALL THE ENGINEERS, AND GET THE HOLY ITEM UP
.....
MA'AM! A HERETIC IS STILL ALIVE!
YOU BUNCH OF YELLOW-HAIRED BARBARIANS
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU IS GREEDILY EYEING MY PRECIOUS
I WON'T GIVE IT TO YOU! COME FIGHT ME FOR IT!
BING TING, WHAT'S HE SAYING?
HE'S SAYING...
DID HE GO MAD FROM LOSING ALL HIS MEN? PROVOKING THE ENEMY AT THIS POINT IS ASKING TO DIE!

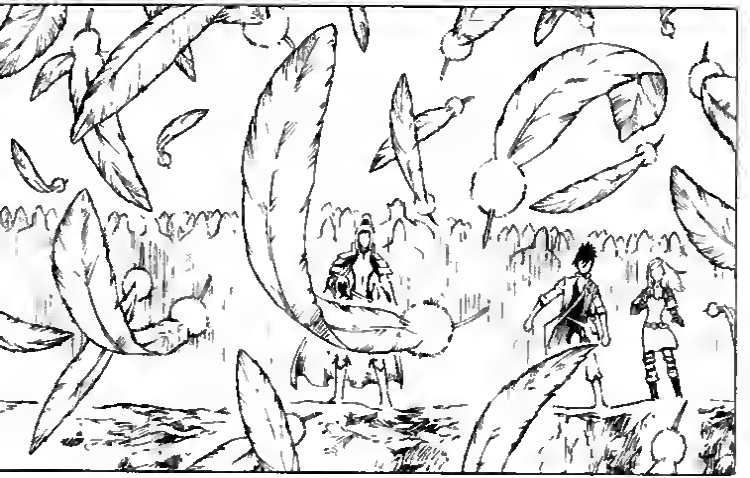
ALL OF OUR MEN HAVE FALLEN!
THE HOLY ITEM MEANT FOR THE KING IS GOING TO BE USURPED BY THE ENEMY!
WHAT STUPIDITY IS THIS PLAN OF YOURS?
You really are... just a brute...
KUH!
HAH
WHAT'S THE TROOP OF SHA TO US? WE WANT THEM TO DIE. THAT'S HOW WE CAN DRAW THE ENEMY TO THEIR GRAVE HERE!
WHAT !?
KILL THAT MADMAN.
YES MA'AM.
WAR STRATEGIES...
...JUST AS THEY THINK VICTORY IS CERTAIN...
...ARE TERRIFYING, BECAUSE...

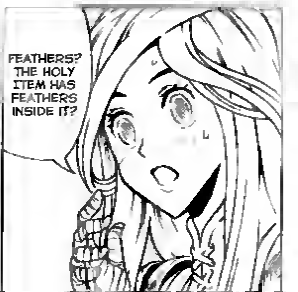
We will come back, and kill their gawking asses.


MORONS!
Enjoy your trip to Hell!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
HE ACTIVATED ME!

ワ!!!!

嗤 嗤 嗤
嗤 嗤




FEATHERS? THE HOLY ITEM HAS FEATHERS INSIDE IT?

IT'S DANGEROUS! RUN, EVERYONE!
HUH? WHAT
OW!
COME ON!
OUT OUT OUT

YAAHHH!!

A MERE TANGUT CANNOT CONTAIN MY GREAT AMBITIONS! I WILL CLAIM NORTHERN SONG AND ALL TRIBES OF TIBET!
YES! THIS IS MY POWER! WITH THIS, EVEN THE KING WILL BOW DOWN TO ME!

Marquise! We'll handle things here, please...
Ma'am! Hurry!

Down!
Hold on tight!
咚

Tao Hoi, watch out!
Bing Ting!
What are you doing? I can handle it!

IS IT DEEP? I'LL STOP THE BLOOD FLOW!
It's... It's okay, everyone dies eventually.
HEH, THERE'S WAR FOR YOU A MINUTE AGO YOU MASSACRED THE TANGUT, AND NOW YOUR MEN ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED WE CALL IT KARMA IN OUR COUNTRY.
How cold!
I'M NOT COLD. I'M JUST SPEAKING THE TRUTH.
RIGHT WAR ILLUSTRATORS MUST BE FAIR AND OBJECTIVE ON THE BATTLEFIELD OUR DRAWINGS MUST REVEAL TRUTH AND JUSTICE.
I DISAGREE.

MY MISTRESS SAID THAT, AS SOON AS YOU STAND IN A BATTLEFIELD, YOU ARE A PART OF THE BATTLE. YOU CAN'T BE OBJECTIVE IN SOMETHING YOU'RE A PART OF.
FIRST OF ALL, THERE IS NO OBJECTIVITY IN THE WORLD.
啪ニ
WHAT'S MORE
TO BE A GOOD WAR PAINTER, YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS AROUND YOU!

I don't care if other people die.
But I'll promise you this— we will survive this battle!

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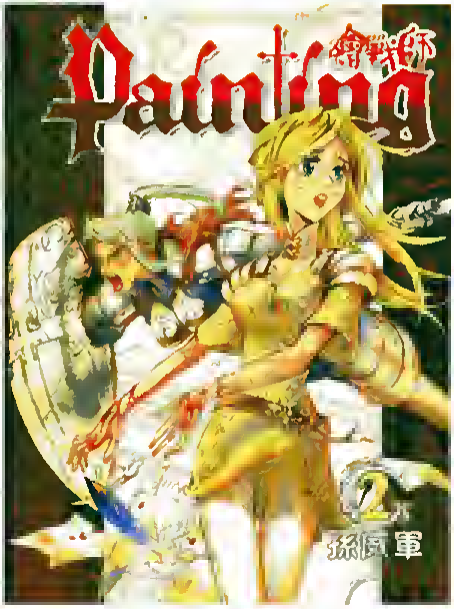

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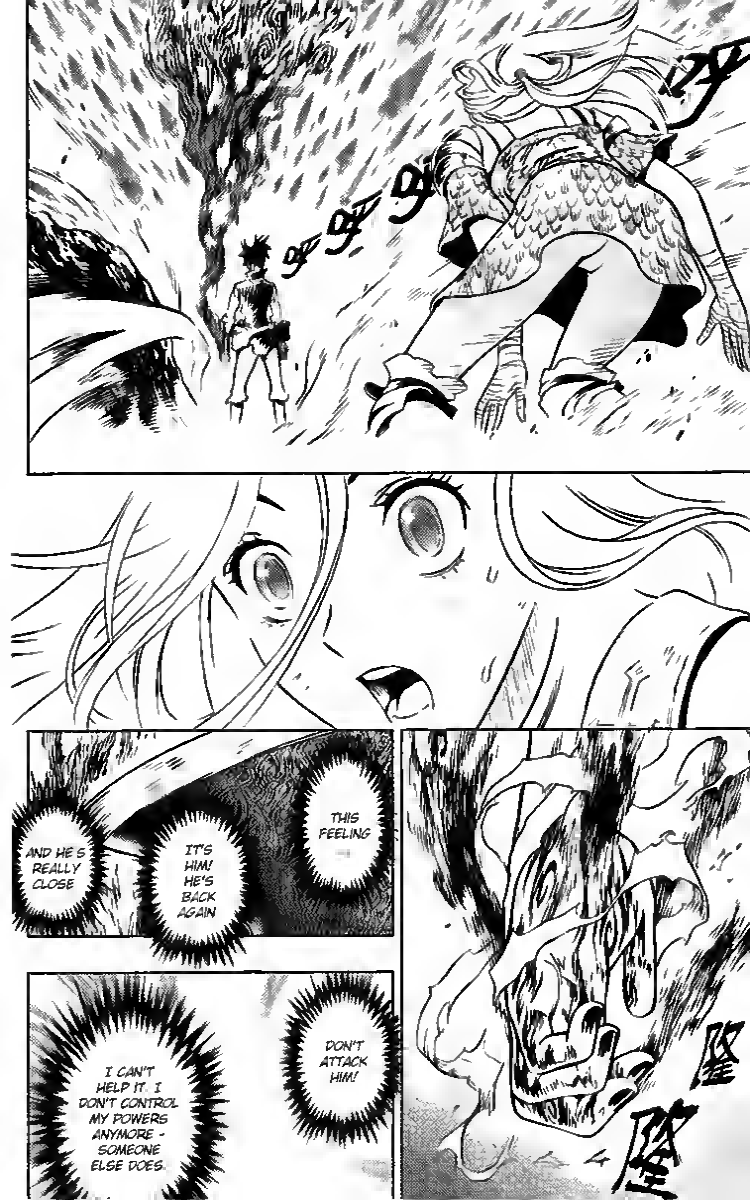
YOUR IMANGASCANS STAFF MAN.

PAINTING 17 RESCUE, ESCAPE


THIS FEELING
IT'S HIM! HE'S BACK AGAIN
AND HE'S REALLY CLOSE
DON'T ATTACK HIM!
I CAN'T HELP IT. I DON'T CONTROL MY POWERS ANYMORE - SOMEONE ELSE DOES.

唰
嗤
嗤

OBT OBT OBT OBT
DSH DSH DSH
DB
Th
ers.

AND HE STRIKES.
JUST AS THE MARQUISE PREDICTED
The feathers melted
ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN.

I COULD DO THIS EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE
AT ONE POINT I ESCAPED THINKING THAT I WAS FINALLY FREE, I MADE A DECISION
BAD THINGS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF IT
WHATEVER I PAINTED WITH MY LEFT HAND THEY'D ROT AWAY

IT WAS OKAY IF I DIDN'T HAVE A GOAL IN LIFE. IT WAS OKAY TO HAVE NO AMBITION. I DIDN'T NEED A MEANING OR A PURPOSE
I FORCED MYSELF TO FORGET ABOUT IT

AS LONG AS I COULD LIVE THE REST OF MY LIFE WITHOUT KNOWING ABOUT MY HORRENDOUS LEFT HAND
AND AT ONE POINT... I SUCCEEDED
一降生

ドォ!!

ロル ロル ロル ロル
THE HOLY ITEM
THIS THING CAN MOVE ?
Novus ordo seclorum
ISN'T... ISN'T THIS...

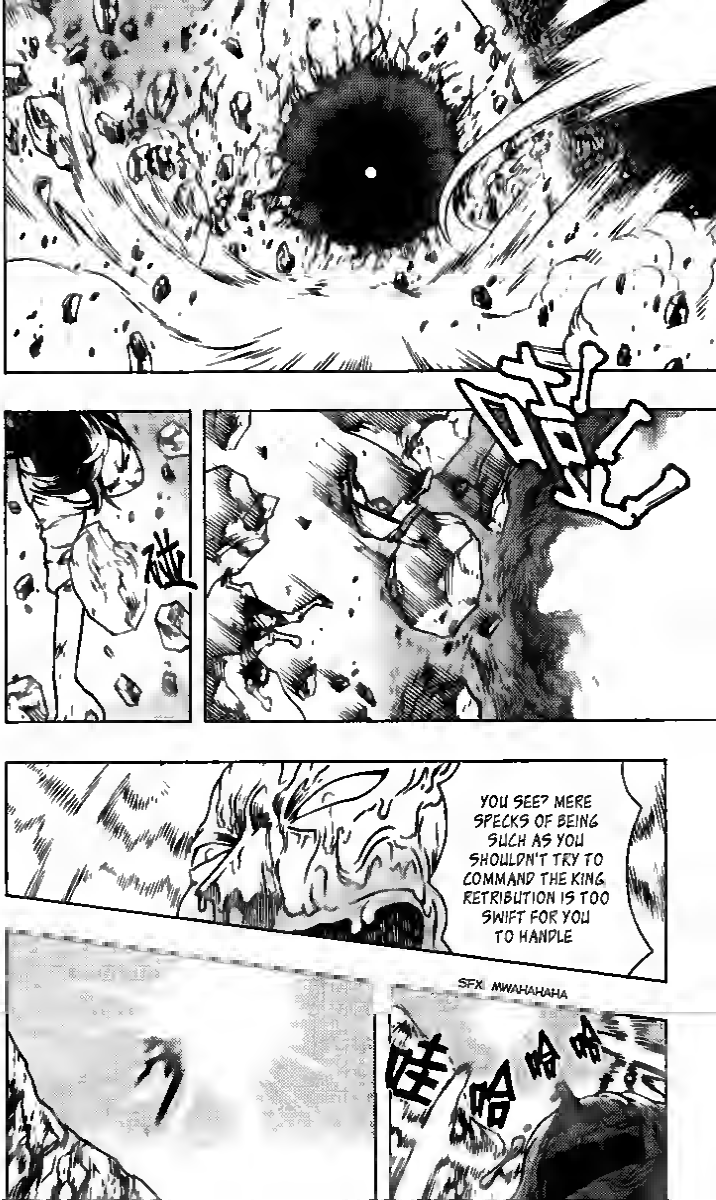
Can the... Holy Item talk?
WHAT?
IT'S CRYING
I THINK IT'S BEING CONTROLLED IT DOESN'T WANT TO BE A KILLING MACHINE.
THAT'S WHY IT'S SAD
I WILL...
STOP THE SECRETARY OF WAR!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
LEAVE.
YOU'RE I REMEMBER YOU. THE YOUNG MAN THAT DEFEATED THE MONSTER IN SHA
HIS BODY...
I'M TELLING YOU! LEAVE, NOW!
HOW DARE YOU TALK TO YOUR KING LIKE THAT? YOU MERE INSECT OF A HUMAN!

IT'S A DOOR!
IF YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE,
I'LL JUST HAVE TO DRAG YOUR ASS OUT!
SO, MANY LIVES WERE SACRIFICED FOR THIS ONE THING. WHAT IN THE WORLD IS IN IT? WHAT'S CONSTANTLY CALLING FOR ME INSIDE?
I'LL FINALLY FIND OUT!
HAHAHA, THE BOY IS ASKING FOR DEATH!
THEN COME ON IN TO SEE YOUR KING!
HE'S... OPENING THE HOLY ITEM...

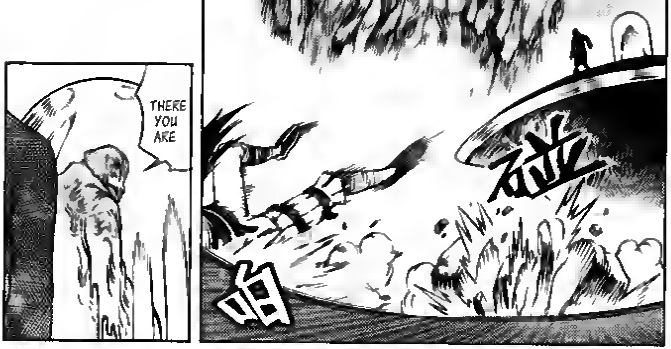
XIAO HU?
No! !!!!
?
咯 咯 咯
Don't open it!

He's tricking you!
軍

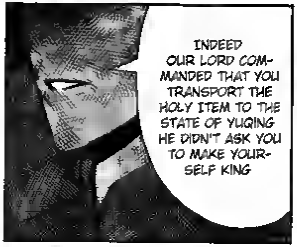

YOU SEE? MERE SPECKS OF BEING SUCH AS YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO COMMAND THE KING. RETRIBUTION IS TOO SWIFT FOR YOU TO HANDLE
SFX: MWAHAHAHA

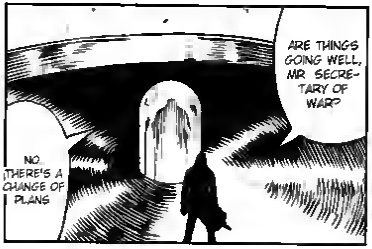
SACRIFICE ALL THE SOLDIERS TO DRAW THE ENEMY TO ONE PLACE.
THEN USE THE HOLY ITEM TO KILL THE ENEMY.
HE WOULD BE THE ONLY MAN STANDING. IS THAT HIS PLAN?
UNLESS... HE HAS MEN NEARBY.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! EVEN IF HE BECOMES AN EMPEROR, THERE MUST BE PEOPLE ASSISTING HIM...

I KNEW IT!



"STATE OF YUQING- CAPITAL OF TANGUT



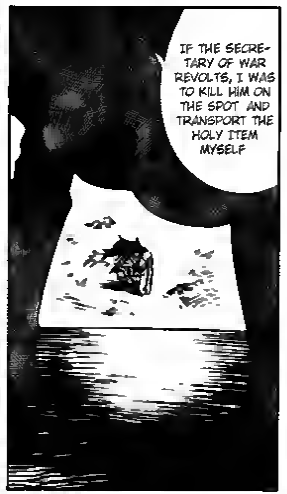


ドン

THE KING'S ORDERS

THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T LET YOU ATTACK HIS HEAD FIRST.

ALONG WITH HIS HEAD.


IF THE SECRETARY OF WAR REVOLTS, I WAS TO KILL HIM ON THE SPOT AND TRANSPORT THE HOLY ITEM MYSELF

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, KEI LIE

JIA TENG!

TAO HUI!
TAO HUI!
WAKE UP!
I'M LOSING MY GRIP!
OUCH!
BING TING
THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE AWAKE!
MY RIGHT HAND!
HOLD ON TIGHT! DON'T LET GO!
WAAHH!

IF ONE DAY YOU REMEMBER THE TROUBLE WITH YOUR LEFT HAND,
BECAUSE...
IF YOU SEE IT, RUN.
...WATCH OUT FOR A CREST.

...IT'S NOT A SYMBOL OF GOOD.

Tao Hui and Bing Ting...
Two children of the same fate...
What lies on the road ahead of them?
VOLUME THREE: THE UNIMAGINABLE CHILDHOOD! MEMORIES WILL RESURFACE...

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